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FRAUD DEFENDANT LILIC DESCRIBED AS BURGLAR, CON MAN  
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AUSTIN TX.

Fraud defendant Bratislav Lilic served a prison sentence for burglary and claimed he made a living selling bogus information to foreign governments, including Libya, Uganda and South Africa, an FBI agent said.

The agent testified Wednesday in Lilic's federal court trial on fraud charges that Lilic tried to convince Jewish officials that Nazi and Arab groups were distributing weapons to kill Jews and blacks in the United States.

The 34-year-old Yugoslavian is charged with defrauding \$46,000 from Austin attorney Douglas F. Pierce by claiming he was a KGB who could win the release of Pierce's son, John Pierce, from a hospital in Vietnam.

John Pierce was a crewman on the Glomar Java Sea, an oil drilling ship owned by Global Marine Drilling Co. of Houston. It sank during a typhoon in the South China Sea 200 miles off the coast of Vietnam in October 1983.

Pierce and 80 other crewmen from the ship were believed to have drowned in the storm, but there have been reports that some crewmen survived and were imprisoned in Vietnam.

A federal indictment alleged that Lilic, posing as a KGB agent named Alexander Ivanov, told Pierce that the Russian Embassy would win his son's freedom.

Chicago FBI agent Byron Eden testified that Lilic served time for burglary at Statesville Prison in Illinois before Lilic claimed he tried to make a living by selling bogus information.

Eden described an October 1983 meeting Lilic had with Ron Butler, director of security for the Jewish Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, in which Lilic claimed he had delivered weapons and explosives across the United States for use by Nazi and Arab groups against blacks and Jews.

Although Lilic later said the information was false, Butler testified that he took Lilic seriously because of security concerns over the Olympic Games scheduled the next year in Los Angeles.

Eden said Lilic claimed he contacted officials in South Africa, Libya, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania and Uganda, telling them he wanted money for information about arms shipments, rebel activities or planned assassinations.

'He (Lilic) gave us a lengthy story that he was in contact with a number of foreign governments,' Eden said. 'He described himself as con man and a burglar, and that he wanted to use his (foreign) accent to pull off cons against foreign governments.'

No charges were file against Lilic, Eden said, because none of his claims could be proven. Texas FBI agent Sikes Houston said Lilic made similar claims after he was arrested on charges of defrauding Pierce.

'He (Lilic) said he would try to do a lot of research, read books on the area (in which he was planning a con),' Houston said. 'He would go out and get the lay of the land.'

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